

CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

CIA 10

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

524

TOPIC Mersburg Airfield

25X1A

25X1X

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE PREPARED 31 October 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

REFERENCE COPY**DO NOT CIRCULATE**

25X1X

1. Between 10 and 19 September 1951, from 700 to 1,000 air force troops were quartered in the barracks installations at Mersburg airfield. Officers observed so far included 1 lieutenant colonel, 3 majors, 8 captains, and 20 lieutenants. A soldier said that the troops came from the U.S.S.R. *
2. Source learned from conversations with runway construction specialists that the runway was suitable for heavy aircraft because its load capacity exceeded that of the usual runways by 30 percent. Concreting was being done on the west end of the taxiway south of the runway and on the two connecting lanes between the taxiway and the runway. Grading was under way on the west edge of the field. Source measured the concrete cover of the taxiway and found it to be 20 cm thick. ** The concrete layer of the taxiway had the same mixture ratio as that of the runway. The thickness of the gravel layer depended on terrain conditions and varied from 30 to 60 cm. Source considered the landing field not serviceable based on the presence of 500 to 600 laborers. The previously discharged workers were rehired for other undetermined work. *** Three hangars whose doors were open had newly tarred roofs. Empty basket containers for shells and ammunition boxes were carried away from the ordnance depot.
3. The street, which runs between the landing field and the barracks installation at the field, had to be vacated between the Gerichtstrasse (ridge) and the vinegar factory by all Germans by 19 September. The road to Lauchstaedt had to be detoured. Truck [REDACTED] was repeatedly observed at the field.

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Comment. For sketch of barracks installations, see Annex. The information that the troops allegedly came from the U.S.S.R. is believed to be incorrect. The troops probably were the advance detail of a unit stationed in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

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Comment. The reported thickness of the concrete cover is believed to be correct. Same source previously reported a thickness of 30 cm which was believed to be too high.

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Comment. According to rumors, the laborers were to be transferred to Schkeuditz airfield upon completion of Mersburg airfield.

1 Annex: 1 - sketch on ditto.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Declassified
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Date: 070978
By: 025

Legend:

- 1-6 Buildings occupied by Buna Plant workers.
- 7 through 12 Buildings occupied by Soviet Air Force troops.
- 13 Damaged building.
- 14 through 17 Houses occupied by Buna Plant workers.
- 18 Building completely damaged.
- 19 through 25 Buildings occupied by Soviets.
- 25 and 26 Buildings occupied by the Merseburg Main Administration of the Consumers association.
- 27 Kindergarten class room.
- 28 Former garages occupied by consumers association.
- 29 Guardhouse on the edge of the landing field.
- 30 Underpass.
- 31 Vinegar factory.
- 32 Drill field.
- 33 Athletic field.
- 34 Nursery.
- (+) Soviet sentries.

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Legend: See next page.

